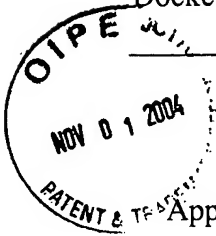


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AMENDMENT / RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Applicant : Kubota et al.
Appl. No. : 10/622,100
Filed : July 16, 2003
For : FRACTURE SPLIT METHOD
FOR CONNECTING ROD
Examiner : John C. Hong
Group Art Unit : 3726

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

October 27, 2004

(Date)

William H. Shreve, Reg. No. 35,678

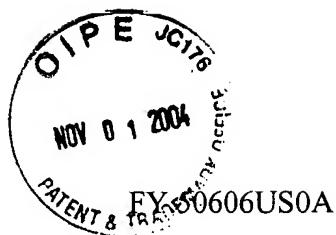
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application are the following enclosures:

- (X) Response to Restriction Requirement in 1 page.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.
- (X) Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

William H. Shreve
Registration No. 35,678
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

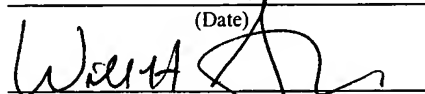
Applicant : Kubota et al.
Appl. No. : 10/622,100
Filed : July 16, 2003
For : FRACTURE SPLIT METHOD
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October 27, 2004

(Date)


William H. Shreve, Reg. No. 35,678

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

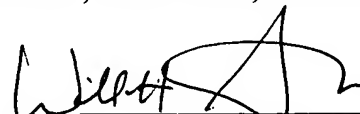
Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 27, 2004 in the above-identified application, Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, to proceed with examination on the merits being directed towards Species I (Claims 1-10 and Figures 2 and 3) should no generic claim eventually be held allowable. Currently, Claims 14-17, 19-25, and 28 are generic.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Oct. 27, 2004

By: 
William H. Shreve
Registration No. 35,678
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404